

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)
)
or Suspension of the Educator)
)
Certificate of George Stephen Zeltman)
)
Certificate # 210937)

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 12, 2003. The State Department of Education (Department) will send a notice of the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate #210937 (certificate) to Mr. George Stephen Zeltman by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. In the interim in accordance with S. C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370 (c) (1986), the Department requested that the State Board summarily suspend Mr. Zeltman's certificate until a due process hearing is held, or this matter is otherwise resolved. The Department has reason to believe, due to the nature of the misconduct that led to his arrest, that Mr. Zeltman may pose a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of students that may be under his instruction. This summary suspension will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse as a summary suspension pending due process proceedings. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to summary suspend Mr. Zeltman's certificate until a due process hearing is held, or this matter is otherwise resolved.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Zeltman holds a valid South Carolina certificate, and has over twenty-six years of teaching experience credit. He was under contract with the Horry County School District (District) for the 2003-2004 school year as a drama teacher at North Myrtle Beach High School. Mr. Zeltman was arrested on October 9, 2003, and charged with Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, Second Degree. He was also on administrative leave by the District on that date. Mr. Zeltman resigned from the District on October 14, 2003. Mr. Zeltman admitted to authorities that he had a sexual

relationship with a fifteen-year old female student from March 1, 2002, until March 1, 2003. Mr. Zeltman admitted that he performed oral sex on the victim several times and that she performed oral sex on him.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (1990). Just cause includes: “Unprofessional conduct; and Crime against the law of this State or the United States.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370 (c)(1986), “If the agency finds that public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action.” The State Board finds that there is reason to believe that Mr. Zeltman may pose a threat to the welfare of students that may be under his instruction. Accordingly, the State Board summarily suspends Mr. Zeltman’s certificate #210937 until a due process hearing is held, or this matter is otherwise resolved.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Greg Killian

Greg Killian

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
November 12, 2003